

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 1, 2004. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 are presented for examination. Claims 2, 4, 7, and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and their recitations incorporated into independent Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 respectively. Claims 16, 17, and 19-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 8 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 2, 4, 7, and 9 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. As noted above, Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8, the base claims of Claims 2, 4, 7, and 9 respectively have been rewritten to include the recitation of allowable Claims 2, 4, 7, and 9 respectively, and amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections discussed below. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejections under Section 112, second paragraph, have been obviated, and their withdrawal is

therefore respectfully requested. Claims 5 and 10 depend from Claims 1 and 8, respectively, and are believed to fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,596,995 (*Yamakawa et al.*) and U.S. Patent No. 6,452,696 (*Bogart et al.*).

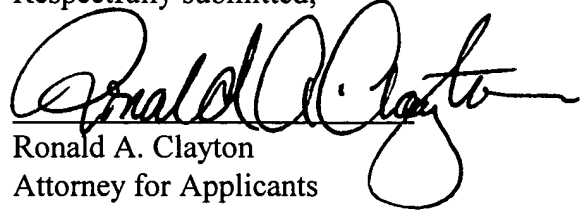
For the reasons discussed above, Applicants believe that the independent claims, Claim 1, 3, 6, and 8, are now in condition for allowance.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald A. Clayton", written over a horizontal line.

Ronald A. Clayton
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 26,718

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 479389v1